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Authority E.O. 11652 SEC. 5(A) and (D)
By SF, NARS, Date 9-19-77

The Two Destroyers Designated for the Next "Desoto Patrol" in the Gulf of Tonkin Are Undergoing Rigorous Training and Some Physical Changes To Assure Increased Readiness

Intensive re-indoctrination will be given to all personnel in the radar and sonar divisions of the ships. Tapes will be played to the former to increase their familiarity with torpedo noises, high speed surface targets, etc. "Nasty Class" patrol boats from Danang will make simulated night and day attacks against the ships to implement realistic training.

Physically, the ships are installing "on-line" crytographic equipment which avoids the laborious task of manual encrypting by scrambling the signals which are supplied to the machine in an unclassified form. Photographic and sound recording equipment have been added to insure tangible evidence in the event of another attack. To enhance night photography, one of the ships will have a star shell capability for illumination.

An exercise patrol will be conducted in friendly waters to integrate these advances and provide even more realistic training. During these maneuvers and the patrol itself, an SP-2 Neptune patrol aircraft will be overhead to increase the radar range and to provide substantiation and correlation for surface detections. Combat air patrol from the carrier BON HOMME RICHARD will also be on call for day and night interdiction.

Downgraded At 3 Year Intervals
Declassified After 12 Years
DOD Dir 5200.10

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